eliminate one false lead for him. Jerry got the number Ray called from Stein and, when in New Orleans, had phoned it. It turned out to be that of a Louisiana State Police barracks on Airline Highway. At this point in his story, Jerry laughed and said there was a funny thing about it.

Huie says Ray told him the man who first made contact with him was named "Raoul". So, when the number turned out to be an active one, Jerry asked for "Raul". Lo and behold, there was a "Raul" at that number. He answered the phone. His name is Raul Esquevil.

Cohen, whose experience with the police in the south is unlike that reported by his colleague, Jack Nelson, unlike that reflected in the indictments and convictions of police charged with civil-rights murders, felt this, because it was a policeman, had to be a false lead.

He may have been right. Unfortunately, he assumed it without checking it out. In support of Jerry's belief, it does seem unusual that a Louisiana State Trooper could have been in Canada when Ray was and contacted Ray at the bar, if that Ray story is true. On the other hand, we have seen Klan chapters in the Chicago police and Minutemen in the New York State Police, so it is not beyond possibility that there could be racist police in the south.

Jerry, like Huie, did not put himself in Ray's position, did not face a survival problem if he fingered any co-conspirators. Ray had, at one and the same time, to defend himself without giving any conspirators more than the existing reason - that he lives and can always talk - to get him knocked off. He therefore had to improvise and dissemble. So, it is also not beyond possibility that he blended several of the characters, to give one example. It is also possible that he used the name "Raoul" because it is the wrong name.

What Cohen learned certainly is not proof that Raul Esquevil is part of the Ray saga. But he ignored what it is not safe to ignore, that he had gotten a good, live phone number from Charles Stein who had seen Ray make the call and jotted the number down.

Not until July 1969 did I learn this story from Bud. Immediately I wrote Jerry asking for confirmation and further information, including where to find Stein and the number. I had spent much time in Louisiana investigating local angles of the John Kennedy murder. I knew there is no State Police barracks in New Orleans on Airline Highway, but that is a long highway. I had driven it as far as Baton Rouge on one trip and to near Jackson, just below the Mississippi state line on another. It continues to and through Mississippi. Recalling this triggered recollection of my investigations of exactly a year earlier, when I had been tracing out the swept-over leads on the anti-Castro camps near New Orleans, on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. There I found proof of the existence of not the one glossed over by the FBI and the Warren Commission but of four, three confirmed by St. Tammany Parish officials. In that investigation I learned the state police had become involved. This was after the FBI was forced to raid an ammo dump right where people live. The existence was no secret. The careless Cubans had started a fire the locals had expected to blow them all sky-high. It was not the local state police who conducted the investigation. A sergeant whose name I have was sent down from Baton Rouge. This was confirmed to me by the cooperative personnel of the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's office, who had conducted their own quiet investigation, and by a lieutenant of the local unit of the state troopers.

Feeling better too late than never, I recounted to Jerry, whom I know, what Bud had told me. I asked Stein's latest address and this phone number. His brief reply of July 28 is:

> Harold,
> Wish I could help, but I'm afraid I can't on either count. I no longer have the phone number, and I have no idea where Charley Stein is. The world seems to have swallowed him up. Matter of fact, I looked for him myself when I was in New Orleans.

Troop A of the state police is at 12400 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge. Its phone number is 389-7581. Raul V. Esquivel, Sr., lives at